34th Annual Festival of the Bonfires

**December 8 – 10, 2023 │ Lutcher Park │ 2545 Louisiana Ave. │ Lutcher, LA**

***2023 ANNUAL POTATO SALAD SHOWDOWN***

**OFFICIAL RULES & GUIDELINES**

**We would like to thank you for your continued support of the Festival of the Bonfires and for keeping our St. James tradition burning bright. *Bon Appetit!***

#### ***Our Creed***

*Rules and regulations are designed to be fair and equal to all competitors. Integrity of the cook, assistants, participants, spectators and the organizers is essential to a fair and impartial contest.*

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| **GENERAL STATEMENTS**The 2023 Annual Potato Salad Showdown is open to all ages. The person who makes the First Place Potato Salad will be crowned **Best Potato Salad of St. James Parish.** NOTE:You are not required to be a citizen of St. James Parish to own this prestigious title. | **BAKE-OFF & JUDGING DATE**Friday, December 8, 2023**SUBMISSION****\*Deadline:** Potato Salad must be submitted on festival grounds by 2:00 pm on Friday, December 8, 2023. |

**OFFICIAL RULES & GUIDELINES**

The following rules and guidelines must be followed by all showdown participants and/or assistants.

1. You must make at least 5 pounds of Potato Salad.
2. You must purchase your own Potato Salad ingredients or obtain a sponsor to purchase ingredients. Your Potato Salad will be considered a donation to the Festival of the Bonfires.
3. You must make your Potato Salad away from the festival grounds. (For example, your home, office or any other location you choose.)
4. It is recommended that you make your Potato Salad on Friday, December 9, 2022. Cooking on Thursday, December 7, 2023 will be acceptable, however, please do not do so prior to Thursday, December 7, 2023 for food safety concerns. **NOTE: The Board & Committee of the Festival of the Bonfires expects that you follow general food safety rules while preparing and baking your Potato Salad.**
5. Your Potato Salad must be submitted on festival grounds by 2:00 pm on Friday, December 8, 2023.
6. A representative of the Festival of the Bonfires will be available to accept your pan of Potato Salad under the Lutcher Park pavilion. At this time you will be issued an identification letter, such as A, B, C. From this point on your Potato Salad will be identified as and referred to by your respective letter.
7. Entries are sealed at the time of submission and identification. Entries are sealed and remain sealed until judging is complete.
8. A sufficient number of samples will be collected from your Potato Salad dish and transferred to the judges’ tent. The remaining Potato Salad will be sampled and set aside at the “Gumbo Tickets” booth to be served as a side on festival grounds on the evening of Friday, December 8, 2023
9. Judging will begin at approximately 5:00 pm on Friday, December 8, 2023 on festival grounds. The judges will taste (and re-taste if necessary) the entries and scoring will be documented in a formal manner. Appearance and texture are encouraged, but we are looking for the Potato Salad that tastes “Mmm, great!” NOTE: Judging of Potato Salad is based on taste.
10. The top three (3) scoring entries will be tallied, First Place being the Potato Salad with the highest overall score.
11. First, Second, and Third Place winners will be awarded the annual trophies. Announcement of results and awards will occur on festival grounds at the main stage at approximately 6:00 pm on Friday, December 8, 2023.

**Contact Jamie Vicknair at (504) 491-4274 or** **jvick623@gmail.com** **with any questions.**